



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 18, 2009

Contacts: Jodi Omeare, 228-697-4504
Krista Zaharias, 228-697-9803

NGA KICKS OFF 101ST ANNUAL MEETING IN MISSISSIPPI

Governors' Agenda to Cover Range of Issues Affecting States and the Nation

GULFPORT, MISS.—With a panoramic view of Mississippi's Gulf Coast as a backdrop, National Governors Association (NGA) Chair Pennsylvania Gov. Edward G. Rendell, Vice Chair Vermont Gov. Jim Douglas and host Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour welcomed the nation's governors to the association's 101st Annual Meeting.

A bipartisan group of America's governors are expected to attend the four-day meeting in Mississippi July 17–20 to discuss a host of issues facing states and the nation, from the economy and health care to education and the environment. NGA had planned to hold its 2006 Annual Meeting in Mississippi but deferred in light of Hurricane Katrina.

“We are excited to welcome governors to Mississippi, and in particular, here to the Mississippi Gulf Coast to showcase the hard work our residents have put into rebuilding after Katrina,” said Gov. Barbour. “Not only are these meetings an important forum for comparing state experiences and discussing critical issues of the day, but they also provide an opportunity to highlight the best of our great state for a national audience.”

The meeting will highlight NGA Chair Pennsylvania Gov. Rendell's yearlong initiative [Strengthening Our Infrastructure for a Sustainable Future](#), which focuses on rebuilding, repairing and maintaining a national infrastructure system that supports America's economic competitiveness, facilitates economic growth and is environmentally sustainable.

Formatted: Font: 16 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 16 pt

Formatted: Font: 16 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 16 pt

Formatted: Font: 16 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 16 pt

Formatted: Font: 16 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 16 pt

Formatted: Font: 16 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 16 pt

Formatted: Font: 16 pt, Not Italic

Formatted: Font: 16 pt, Not Italic

Formatted: Font: 16 pt

“Infrastructure is the backbone of our modern society,” Gov. Rendell said. “That’s why I dedicated my Chair’s Initiative to developing a robust, well-maintained national infrastructure that can help sustain – and grow – America’s economic vitality, environmental health and quality of life.”

Formatted: Font: 16 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 16 pt

Formatted: Font: 16 pt, Not Italic

Formatted: Font: 16 pt

Gov. Douglas, who will become chair of NGA on Monday, laid out the details of the meeting agenda. Among the highlights:

- Today’s opening plenary session will focus on infrastructure. Guests include Zhang Dawei, vice governor of Henan Province, People’s Republic of China, who will deliver the keynote address; Charles W. “Wick” Moorman, chairman, president and CEO of Norfolk Southern Corp.; and U.S. Representatives Rosa DeLauro and Steve Israel;
- On Saturday and Sunday, the four NGA standing committees will meet in two separate sessions to enable governors to learn about the work being done by their colleagues on a variety of issues;
- Also on Sunday, governors will hold a special plenary session dedicated to emergency preparedness issues. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano will speak, and governors also will hear from Motorola CEO Gregory Brown, Travelers Chairman and CEO Jay Fishman, Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator W. Craig Fugate and Director of HORNE, LLC Bryan McDonald; and
- Monday’s closing plenary session will focus on energy and the economy with Karen Harbert, president and CEO of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s Institute for 21st Century Energy; Kathleen McGinty, founding partner at Peregrine Technology Partners, LLC; Dan DiMicco, chairman, CEO and president of Nucor; and Ira Magaziner, chairman of the Clinton Foundation Climate Initiative and Clinton Foundation HIV/AIDS Initiative.

“We have a very full agenda over the next four days, but governors are ready to get to work,” said Gov. Douglas. “I am pleased to be joined here in Mississippi by our colleagues to focus on the various issues faced by each state, to share best practices with each other and to find solutions to our common challenges.”

Formatted: Font: 16 pt, Not Bold

Formatted: Font: 16 pt

###

Founded in 1908, the National Governors Association (NGA) is the collective voice of the nation's governors and one of Washington, D.C.'s most respected public policy organizations. Its members are the governors of the 50 states, three territories and two commonwealths. NGA provides governors and their senior staff members with services that range from representing states on Capitol Hill and before the Administration on key federal issues to developing and implementing innovative solutions to public policy challenges through the NGA Center for Best Practices. For more information, visit www.nga.org.

Formatted: Font: 16 pt, Not Italic

Formatted: Font: 16 pt, Not Italic

Formatted: Font: 16 pt, Not Italic

Formatted: Font: 16 pt

Formatted: Font: 14 pt